

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 02398 031418 Z

43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 COA-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5665

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMCONSUL TANGIER

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 2398

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MO, SP

SUBJECT: MFA COMMENTS ON MOROCCAN FONMIN VISIT

REF RABAT 1959

1. IN REVIEW OF BENHIMA VISIT APRIL 30, MFA ACTING DIRECTOR FOR NORTH AFRICA STRESSED GOS WILLINGNESS TO COMPLY WITH BUT INABILITY AGREE TO NEW GOM FISHING NORMS AT THIS TIME. SPAIN HAD ABOUT 850 BOATS WHICH ORDINARILY FISHED OFF MOROCCO. LARGER MODERN CRAFT COULD FISH MORE DISTANT WATERS, BUT PROBLEM REMAINED FOR SMALLER AND OLDER VESSELS. THIS CONTRASTED WITH FEWER THAN FIFTY FRENCH AND SMALL NUMBER JAPANESE BOATS INVOLVED.
2. INABILITY AGREE TO 70 MILE FISHING JURISDICTION BASED ON FACT SPAIN PARTY TO SEVERAL CONVENTIONS RECOGNIZING UP TO 12 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA, BUT PROVIDING FREEDOM FISH BEYOND TERRITORIAL WATERS.
3. MEANWHILE, AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED FOR JOINT SPAIN- MOROCCO VENTURE " MAROPECHE" TO BEGIN OPERATIONS WITH 5 MODERN VESSELS IMMEDIATELY.

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PAGE 02 MADRID 02398 031418 Z

4. MFA SATISFIED WITH BENHIMA' S UNDERSTANDING OF
GOS INABILITY TREAT SAHARA AS SIMPLY A BILATERAL MATTER.

5. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, EXPULSION OF TANGIER
CORRESPONDENT GOMEZ SALOME ON HEELS OF BENHIMA VISIT
BROUGHT SUCH PROTRACTED INDIGNATION FROM NEWSPAPER YA
THAT OTHER MEDIA FINALLY CRIED " YA" (ENOUGH).

6. COMMENT: WE ARE IMPRESSED WITH LENGTH OF BENHIMA
MEETING WITH CARRERO. THAT IS WHERE THE POWER LIES IN
DECIDING SAHARA POLICY. FRANCO HAS ALWAYS BEEN WIDELY
CONSIDERED " SOFT ON MOROCCO", AND WE BELIEVE MFA WELL
DISPOSED TOWARD ACCOMMODATION WITH GOM. BUT INFO IN
REFTEL IMPLIES BENHIMA MAY HAVE MADE SOME HEADWAY WITH
PRESIDENCY. FOR ROUNDUP OF ESTABLISHMENT VIEWS ON
SAHARA, NOT ALL ADVERSE TO MOROCCO, SEE MADRID A-85.

7. TIMING SUGGESTS GOMEZ SALOME EXPULSION MAY HAVE BEEN
PART OF AN UNDERSTANDING BENHIMA REACHED WITH GOS.
RIVERO

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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